

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer ~~containing as essential components comprising~~
 - a) 5 to 50 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS) [[, a]];
 - b) 20 to 70 wt% rosin-based resin[[, a]] ;
 - c) 10 to 60 wt% softener ~~consisting of polybutene and/or liquid paraffin and a~~
 - d) 1 to 20 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone, as a dissolving component, ~~along with estrogen and/or progesterone as active ingredients, ; and~~
e) an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of estrogen, progesterone or a combination of estrogen and progesterone, the adhesive layer being free from any alcohol.
2. (Original) The patch according to claim 1, wherein the estrogen is 17- β -estradiol.
3. (Original) The patch according to claim 1, wherein the progesterone is norethisterone acetate.
4. (Original) The patch according to claim 1, wherein the backing is a laminate comprising a 0.1 to 20 μ m thick polyethylene terephthalate film and a 1 to 200 μ m thick flexible polymer film, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric.
5. (Currently amended) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of
 - a) 5 to 50 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS);
 - b) 20 to 70 wt% rosin-based adhesive resin;

c) 10 to 60 wt% softener consisting of polybutene and/or liquid paraffin;
d) 1 to 20 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone, as a dissolving component; and
e) an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of estrogen, progesterone or a combination of estrogen and progesterone, the adhesive layer being free from any alcohol.

6. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 5, wherein the estrogen is 17- β -estradiol.

7. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 5, wherein the progesterone is norethisterone acetate.

8. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 5, wherein the backing is a laminate comprising a 0.1 to 20 μ m thick polyethylene terephthalate film and a 1 to 200 μ m thick flexible polymer film, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric.

9. (Currently amended) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer being free from any alcohol and comprising

- a) 10 to 30 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS);
- b) 40 to 50 wt% rosin-based resin;
- c) 20 to 40 wt% softener consisting of polybutene and/or liquid paraffin;
- d) 2 to 10 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone, as a dissolving component; and
- e) 1 to 3 wt% estrogen or 2 to 5 wt% progesterone.

10. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 9, wherein the estrogen is 17- β -estradiol.

11. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 9, wherein the progesterone is norethisterone acetate.

12. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 9, wherein the backing is a laminate comprising a 0.1 to 20 μm thick polyethylene terephthalate film and a 1 to 200 μm thick flexible polymer film, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric.

13. (Currently amended) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer being free from any alcohol and the adhesive layer further containing as essential components a 5 to 50 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS), a 20 to 70 wt% rosin-based resin, a 10 to 60 wt% softener consisting of polybutene and/or liquid paraffin, and a 1 to 20 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone, as a dissolving component, along with estrogen as an active ingredient, wherein the amount polyvinylpyrrolidone is at least 5 times or more the amount of estrogen.